

GM 596



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
March 1, 2019
1:15 pm., Room 224

In consideration of
GM 596, Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser
as the
Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

Phyllis was designated acting chairperson for the Board of Agriculture last month and has also served as deputy to the chairperson since 2015. She is a long-time advocate of agriculture, having worked as vice president and administrative fiscal assistant at Mikilua Poultry Farm, Inc. in Wai'anae and as vice president of Associated Producers Corp. in Honolulu.

Phyllis has been instrumental in moving the department forward in our efforts to increase local food production. I would like to see her continue this movement to self-sufficiency and food security and to making farming and local food production a thriving industry in addition to protecting and expanding agriculture.

My administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser will continue to support our employees in the DOA in this effort. Moving forward together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

KENNETH S. HARA
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON G.M. NO. 596
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION & CONFIRMATION OF
THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL,
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND
HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

MARCH 1, 2019

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Russell Ruderman and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN),

I am Major General Arthur Logan, Adjutant General, Director of the State Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor. I am providing written testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 596 for Gubernatorial Nominee, Phyllis Shimabukuro, as the Board Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Shimabukuro has served as the Deputy to the Chairperson since 2015 and has demonstrated she has the leadership and experience to successfully serve as the Chair for the Department of Agriculture. She has an extensive history of serving in public service and has outstanding academic and professional experience and expertise in animal science and agriculture in both the public and private sectors.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Shimabukuro, as she will make an outstanding Chair to lead the state in this area.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Ms. Shimabukuro.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
Comptroller
AUDREY HIDANO
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
MARCH 1, 2019, 1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224, STATE CAPITOL**

**G.M. 596
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE BOARD
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-31-2022**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 596. I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro to the position of Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

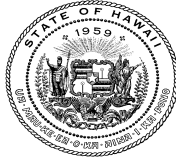
Ms. Shimabukuro has served as Deputy to the Chairperson at the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture since January 16, 2015. Previously, she worked at Mikilua Poultry Farm, Inc. in various capacities, working her way up to President of the company. In addition, Ms. Shimabukuro also served as Vice President of Associated Producers Corporation.

Ms. Shimabukuro's extensive background in agriculture as well as her experience in public service makes her an ideal candidate to serve as Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSHUA GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ELAINE YOUNG
ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 329
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.hawaii.gov/labor

Phone: (808) 586-8877 / Fax: (808) 586-8822

Email: dlir.workforce.develop@hawaii.gov

February 27, 2019

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair,
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Friday, March 1, 2019
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Elaine Young, Administrator
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce Development Division

**GM 596 Phyllis Shimabukuro to Serve as Board Chairperson of the Department of
Agriculture**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elaine Young and I am the Administrator for the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). I support the confirmation of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Shimabukuro's experience serving as the Deputy Director for the Department of Agriculture and her many years in agriculture industry has well-prepared her to serve as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. I have been witness to her vast knowledge and expertise in agriculture with her participation as the department representative on the DLIR Hawaii Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Shimabukuro to serve as the Board Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture where, if confirmed, she will provide excellent leadership and service to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 PM

GM 596 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board
Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS
SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Agribusiness Development
Corporation ("ADC") supports Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser's appointment as
Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Since 2015, Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has served with distinction as the
Deputy Director for the HDOA. She has extensive experience in local
government and private business, holding numerous board positions and is well-
versed in agriculture regulatory and development issues.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser's appointment will expand the reach and
effectiveness of the HDOA as it supports the Governor's Sustainable Hawaii
Initiatives to double food production and provide stronger invasive species policy,
infrastructure and capacity. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your

support of Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser's appointment to serve as Chairperson of the HDOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 596
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-31-2022**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 596 nominating Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture to expire on December 31, 2022.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser is the current Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, after serving previously as its Deputy Director. In viewing her long history and dedication to agriculture in the State of Hawaii, her appointment seems natural. Her considerable experience in both agriculture and management has played a large part to the strides that the State has made in the past four years toward diversified crops, more locally supplied foods and value added products. The Department expects to maintain a close and amiable working relationship with Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser, particularly in addressing invasive species control.

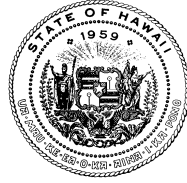
Thank you for your consideration of the Department's strong support for Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM596
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the
Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a
term to expire 12-31-2022.

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 1, 2019

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Phyllis
3 Shimabukuro for Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. DOH is grateful for Phyllis'
4 contribution to starting up Hawaii's medical cannabis dispensary system in 2015, in which her
5 experience and qualifications an executive leader in the private and public agriculture sector
6 were greatly valued.

7 We look forward to working with the Department of Agriculture under her leadership to assure
8 Hawaii residents have robust access to healthy, locally sources foods.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM596.

10 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

11

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 21, 2019

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair,
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Friday, March 1, 2019
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: G.M. No. 596 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO

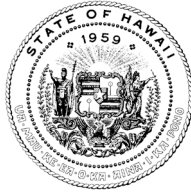
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in support of Governor's Message 596, Gubernatorial Nominee, Phyllis Shimabukuro, as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture (DoA).

Ms. Shimabukuro has demonstrated that she has the leadership and experience to successfully lead the DoA. As the former Deputy Chairperson of the DoA, Ms. Shimabukuro assisted the Chairperson by providing direction and coordination of Department activities, participating in policy meetings with stakeholder groups, and serving as the Acting Plant Industry Division Administrator twice. In addition, Ms. Shimabukuro's prior service as the President of Mikilua Poultry Farm, Inc. and on numerous agriculture-related boards like the Hawaii Farm Bureau show her passion and commitment to administrative efficiency and building the State's agricultural sustainability and resiliency.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Shimabukuro to serve as the Chairperson of the DoA so that she may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Shimabukuro.



OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Friday, March 1, 2019

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 596
Gubernatorial Nominee Phyllis Shimabukuro

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of Phyllis Shimabukuro's nomination as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. She has served as deputy to the chairperson since 2015, assisting in the direction and coordination of day-to-day activities of the Department and assuming active direction of the Department in his absence, among other things. Along with her role as deputy to the chairperson, she concurrently served as Acting Plant Industry Division Administrator twice in 2016 and 2018. The Plant Industry Division is the department's largest division comprised of the Pesticides Branch, Plant Quarantine Branch and the Plant Pest Control Branch.

Along with being a long-time agriculture advocate, Ms. Shimabukuro brings her many years of experience, knowledge and leadership of the department and industry to the position of chairperson. For those reasons, she will continue to be a great asset to the department and to state government.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nominee.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

JASON MINAMI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 20, 2019

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT**

For Hearing on Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224

By

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

**Governor's Message 596
(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Re: Consideration and confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro, for Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Shimabukuro over the past two years as Deputy to the Chairperson and I have found her to be a dedicated, knowledgeable, measured and a well-prepared person who is well suited for the position of Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

I support the confirmation of Ms. Shimabukuro as the Chairperson of Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 596 and Phyllis Shimabukuro.

Statement of
Mike McCartney

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 596
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the
Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,
PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee.

I **support** the appointment of **Phyllis Shimabukuro** to serve as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

As the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture since January 2015, Ms. Shimabukuro has been an integral component to the department. Her wide scope of leadership responsibilities included operational efficiencies, collaboration with legislators, community stakeholders and policy boards along with serving as the Acting Plant Industry Division Administrator in 2016 and 2018. Her professional experiences in service to the State and as the president of a locally owned farm business brings a realistic and applicable understanding to the position that will benefit the department and the people of the State of Hawaii.

For these reasons, I urge her confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dean M. Matsukawa
Dept of Agriculture
Honolulu, Hi 96814
February 22, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol Room 224
Testimony GM 596

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of the nomination of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture.

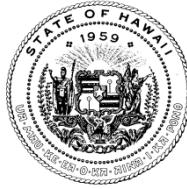
Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser is well aware of the challenges and issues facing smaller farms and livestock operations throughout the State as she has operated her family's poultry operation in Waianae for many years. She has previously served on the Board of Agriculture and as the Deputy for the Department of Agriculture which allowed her to become very familiar with the Divisions in the Department as well as current agricultural issues. Her background and experience gives her insight into the economic pressures and financial struggles facing the Hawaii Agricultural sector and family farm operations.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has been active in the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and is a long-time advocate for Hawaii Agriculture. In my dealings with Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser, I have been impressed by her intelligence and candor.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has been and continues to be a valuable asset to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and will well serve the agricultural industry. I respectfully ask the Committee to vote favorably on the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser to the post of Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dean M. Matsukawa
Agricultural Loan Administrator



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

G.M. 596

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser is a long time Hawaii agriculture advocate and has been an active member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, World Poultry Science Association, and Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honor Society. She was the President of Mikilua Poultry Farm, Vice President of the Associated Producers Corporation, and Vice Chairperson of the DOA. As the Acting Chairperson of the DOA she has served with extraordinary distinction where her leadership and service are worthy of recognition.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has genuine background and experience in agriculture, which is going to tremendously benefit the DOA. She possesses not only the working understanding of agriculture and its intricacies, but also appreciates the reality that DOA continues to struggle to meet its mission every day with limited resources. The mission of the DOA is certainly difficult, but her enthusiasm to improve the department has not wavered, especially since she knows the constituents it serves are depending on the department to continue its progress.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HEARING ON MARCH 01, 2019 AT 1:15PM IN CR 224**

IN SUPPORT OF

GM596

for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Agriculture,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **PHYLLIS SHIMBUKURO**,
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

March 01, 2019

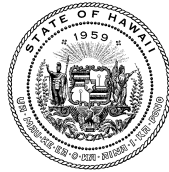
Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee:

We provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Director of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Ms. Shimabukuro's farm experience, professional credentials, government experience, and current responsibilities at the DOA make her well-qualified for this appointment. With our homestead communities, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands looks forward to working with the DOA toward more local food production.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER

AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019, 1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 596

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-31-2022.

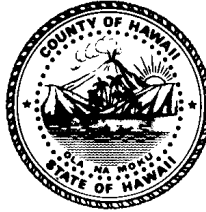
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 596. I **SUPPORT** of the nomination of **PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER** to the position of Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

I have known Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser since January 2015 in her capacity as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. We have worked together on various projects and have found her to be dedicated to her work and to her department. She is a caring leader, always thinking how to better the process.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser continually demonstrates professionalism and has a strong commitment to serve the people and the State of Hawaii. She will truly be an asset as Board Chairperson to the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564
(808) 887-2069

Email: tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, and Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 27, 2019

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony

RE: Support of GM 596
Hearing Date/Time: March 1, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senators:

As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management and the Vice Chair of the Committee on Finance for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of GM 596**.

I have had the privilege to know Phyllis Shimabukuro for many years and believe she would be a fitting Chairperson of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. I have worked with Phyllis in the private poultry industry in the past and have found her to be solution-oriented. Recently, we have had the opportunity to work together again on the small ruminant and hog slaughter issues being faced in Hawai'i County, and she has been responsive in facilitating conversations to seek solutions to this island wide concern. I fully endorse Phyllis Shimabukuro and look forward to working with her in supporting Hawai'i agriculture going forward.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Chair*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Vice Chair*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Past Chair*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2019
TIME: 1:15pm
PLACE: Conference Room

RE: GM 596

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA supports the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. We believe that Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser is the ideal candidate for this position. Having served as the Deputy to the Chairperson since 2015 has given her the experience necessary for this role. Her previous experience working with agricultural businesses in Hawaii will also help her to excel in this role. We are proud to support her nomination and confirmation and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1399

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GM 596

**Consideration and Confirmation as the Board Chairperson
of the Department of Agriculture,
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser**

March 1, 2019

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Russell Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff.

HARC **strongly supports** the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Phyllis has a very strong background in agriculture. Her experience over the past 4 years as Deputy to the Chairperson allowed her to apply her business and administrative skills from the private sector to the public sector. As the former principal assistant to the Chairperson of the Board she already has experience in assuming those responsibilities in his absence. Her background from a small family farming operation provides her with a good perspective into the emerging diversification of agriculture in Hawaii.

Phyllis is a great choice.

Please confirm Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser's appointment as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors 2018 - 2020

President
Joshua Uyehara

Vice-President
Warren Mayberry

Secretary
Dawn Bicoy

Treasurer
Laurie Yoshida

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Joshua Uyehara
Warren Mayberry

President Emeritus
Alan Takemoto

Executive Director
Bennette Misalucha

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of Phyllis Shimabukuro's Confirmation as Board Chairperson
of the Department of Agriculture

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
March 1, 2019, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Chair Gabbard and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro as Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.

As deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Phyllis has been instrumental in moving the department forward in meeting its objectives to preserve, promote, and develop essential agricultural resources and infrastructure to facilitate the industry's growth. She also has a thorough understanding and knowledge of the industry, having previously worked in senior management positions with Mikilua Poultry Farm, Inc. in Waianae and the Associated Producers Corp. in Honolulu.

She is a strong advocate for agriculture, and we need this type of leader to keep the industry moving forward.

It is for these reasons we support Phyllis' appointment as Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Friday, March 1, 2019 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Supports GM 596, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Phyllis Shimabukuro, for a Term to Expire 12-31-2022

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports GM 596, which appoints Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser for a term as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has the requisite experience to lead the Department of Agriculture, having been the Deputy Director since 2015 and previously, the Vice President at Mikilua Poultry Farm. Therefore, she has knowledge of departmental operations and farmer operations experience, which will help shape positive agricultural policies and initiatives going forward.

We look forward to continuing our work with her in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



March 1, 2019

Hearing before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
And Environment

Re: GM 596 – Submitting testimony in SUPPORT of
PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO as the Board Chairperson of the
Department of Agriculture.

Chair Gabbard and committee members:

My name is Dan Clegg, Hawaii Business Operations Lead for Bayer U.S. –
Crop Science. We have approximately 600 employees working on 6 farms
on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Molokai.

We strongly support GM 596 which appoints Ms. Shimabukuro as the
Board Chairperson for the State Department of Agriculture for a term to
expire 12/31/2022.

Ms. Shimabukuro has been a long-time egg producer for many years before
becoming the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. As an egg
producer and business person, she understands what the local farmer is
going through on an everyday basis. As a farm business person, she was known
as a leader in Hawaii's agricultural industry and have always been active in many
aspects in addressing and resolving critical agricultural issues.

As a Deputy and hopefully soon to be the Chairperson of the Department of
Agriculture, she can use her personal knowledge and experience as a business
person to lead the State in making the agricultural industry more viable. We
respectfully urge your support and confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro as the
next Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you,
Dan Clegg

//////////

Dan Clegg
Hawaii Business Operations
Lead
Bayer U.S. – Crop Science

PO Box 200
94-520 Kunia Road
Kunia, HI 96759

Tel. +1 808 685 8663
Fax +1 808 685 8365
Dan.clegg@bayer.com

www.bayer.com

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

GM 596, Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser
Confirmation Hearing, Chair Board of Agriculture
Senate AEN Hearing - March 1, 2019
1:15 am - Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jefts
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

My name is Larry Jefts, owner and operator of Larry Jefts Farms, LLC. I have been a farmer in Hawaii for more than 35 years and have been actively involved in organizations that support Hawaii's farmers.

I have known Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser through my membership and participation with the Hawaii Farm Bureau. I am currently the Treasurer of the State Hawaii Farm Bureau and member of South County Chapter of the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

A strong advocate for Hawaii agriculture, Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has recently been appointed as the designated acting chairperson for the Board of Agriculture last month. She has served as deputy to the chairperson since 2015.

She is someone who comes from an agriculture family- business, Mikilua Poultry Farm, Inc and understands well the challenges that all Hawaii agriculturists face. Her practical agriculture-business experience and her firm grasp on agricultural issues have led to recognition and service as resources to organizations like CTAHR, and USDA Farm Service Agency-Hawaii Committee. She has also served on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture from 1989-1997.

Your consideration of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser for the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture is strongly urged. I can be reached at 688-2892 if you have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Ponoholo Ranch Limited

P O BOX 700489
KAPOLEI, HI 96709
(808) 306-7769

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday March 1, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room 224

GM 596 PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO NOMINATION

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture,
Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am the Vice President of Ponoholo Ranch Limited.

We **strongly supports** GM 596, the nomination of Phyllis Shimabukuro as Chairperson for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I had served on the Board of Agriculture for 8 years, under two different Chairs, and have worked closely with HDOA for over 30 years. I have known Phyllis for over 25 years and have worked closely with her in the livestock industry. Phyllis is quiet, but she has been an effective leader in private industry, running her family business for a number of years. She has served as Deputy in the Department of Agriculture for the past 4 years and during this time has been an effective leader in the department. We strongly support her for this position.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination for Phyllis Shimabukuro.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 9:58:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce corker	Testifying for Rancho Aloha	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am a coffee and avocado farmer in Holualoa, Hawaii County.

In connection with the nominations of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as Chair and Glenn Muranaka as Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, I offer comments arising from concerns about recent testimonies from the Department to the Legislature. The testimonies have taken positions contrary to the interests of Hawaii farmers—in support of corporate food industry interests. Of equal concern are questionable factual assertions from the HDOA in those testimonies.

Here are two examples from testimony submitted by HDOA in the past month:

HB144—51% Minimum and Origin Identification for Coffee Blends

This bill has been passed by the House Agriculture and CPC committees. For the February 20 CPC hearing 80 written testimonies were submitted in support of the bill by Hawaii coffee farmers and their supporters; there were 2 testimonies in opposition from Honolulu's largest coffee blender (Hawaii Coffee Company) and the Hawaii Food Industry Association. Disappointing negative comments were submitted by the HDOA in support of the blenders' puzzling arguments—and contained the following inaccurate assertions:

1—HDOA's contention that the 1991 10% Kona blend law was the result of "mutual agreement with the coffee industry" is not true. In fact, with the support of the Hawaii County Council on Economic Development, in 1991 Kona producers sought a 51%

minimum and strongly criticized the subsequently adopted 10% blend law as “false advertising” (Tom Greenwell) and “a misuse of the cultural heritage of Hawaii” (Michael Craig). See Gerald Y. Kinro, “Cup of Aloha”, at page 109.

2—HDOA’s claim that HB144’s label transparency provision would place “extreme hardship on the blending industry” is unsubstantiated and contrary to realities of modern computerized labeling technologies.

HB143—Disclosure of Percentages in Ready-To-Drink Coffee Products

This bill addresses the fact that some RTD marketers of coffee in cans and packages are using Hawaii origin names (“Hawaii Kona Premium Coffee” and “Kona Red Kona Blend”) without disclosing how much, if any, of the coffee in the package is from Hawaii-grown beans. The bill would require RTD coffee products to meet the same labeling requirements that currently apply to roasted and instant coffee.

The HDOA’s written testimony to the Agriculture Committee hearing of January 30 contains the following inaccurate contentions:

1—HDOA represents to the Legislature that the Department is “currently unable to determine the content or origin of a coffee or a blend once it is roasted or manufactured as a ready-to-drink beverage.” The Department ignores scientific advances in coffee authentication. For example, the following publication by 5 UH Manoa faculty members has been repeatedly cited to the HDOA: Jun Wang, et al, “Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy for Kona Coffee Authentication”, *Journal of Food Science*, Vol., Nr. (2009). This article describes how the origins of both roasted and brewed coffee can be readily determined.

2—The Department has also taken the position that it has no enforcement jurisdiction over the labeling of RTD coffee products that are manufactured and packaged outside of Hawaii.” That contention is wrong. Hawaii clearly has jurisdiction over products sold in this state with labeling in violation of state law. Furthermore, the HDOA holds the trademarks for the regional names of Hawaii-grown green coffee and should be pursuing fraudulent mislabeling claims on the mainland in the same way Idaho pursues fraudulent mislabeling of Idaho Potatoes in other states—and as California protects Napa and Sonoma wine grape growers from false labeling in other states. The Department should be looking for ways to support Hawaii farmers, not looking for reasons for inaction.

If Hawaii is going to pursue greater food self-sufficiency and reduce the importation of 90% or more of our food, the Department needs to begin vigorously supporting the economic interests of Hawaii farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Bruce Corker



PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750
808-929-9550

HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of GM596

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Committee,

I am Chris Manfredi, President of Hawaii Coffee Association.

At more than \$61MM the Hawaii coffee industry is ranked by USDA among Hawaii's leading crops. The Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) mission is to represent all sectors of the Hawaiian coffee industry, including growers, millers, wholesalers, roasters and retailers located throughout the State of Hawaii. The HCA's primary objective is to increase awareness and consumption of Hawaiian coffees. A major component of HCA's work is the continuing education of members and consumers.

The HCA supports the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro as Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

We are confident that her experience will be a benefit to the Department, our industry and the public.

Hawaii's coffee industry relies on Hawaii's Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for a great many things including administration of grade standards and labeling rules, preserving the integrity of designated growing regions, enforcement of quarantine protocols, market development and support, prevention and management of invasive species, and pesticide regulations are among the many HDOA functions that impact and support our industry.

We look forward to working with the new HDOA Chair to advance our industry and strengthen our partnership with the Department to the benefit of our members and Hawaii's citizens.

Thank you for your support of GM596.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 1, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 596

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has a solid education with a strong emphasis on agriculture. Her dedication to Hawaii's agricultural industries is exhibited by her experience with her family farm, Mikilua Poultry Farm Inc. (est. 1947) where she provided over 30 years of service. Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has served as both the President and Vice-President of the Hawaii Egg Producers Cooperative, a member-at-large for the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture, a Presidential nomination and service as a State Committee Member for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Hawaii State Committee, UH CTAHR reorganization and search committees, the search committee under the Governor Lingle Administration for the HDOA Chairperson, and as the Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. While a member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Phyllis received the 1995 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Outstanding Member. She has earned numerous other accolades throughout her career.

Her experience and education are complimented by a strong work ethic and dedication that will undoubtedly combine to provide positive leadership for Hawaii's Department of Agriculture.

Please accept our strong support for Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson to Hawaii's Department of Agriculture.



Hartung Brothers, Inc.

P.O. Box 823
Kekaha, HI. 96752

Tel. 808-337-1408
Fax. 808-337-1560

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Friday, March 1, 2019, 1:15 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Re: GM 596 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the gubernatorial nomination of Phyllis Shimabukuro, as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Shimabukuro has worked for over 30 years in the agriculture industry, and has extensive experience in agricultural research and outreach, contract administration, and operations management. Furthermore, her experience as Deputy to the Chairperson of Agriculture, provides a valuable perspective and detailed knowledge of the department as well as the industry.

Ms. Shimabukuro's remarkable professional background combined with her extensive experience would be a tremendous asset to the Department of Agriculture, and I am pleased to support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nominee.

Sincerely,

Joshua Uyehara, Vice President – General Manager, Hawaii Operations
Hartung Brothers, Inc.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 9:32:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:



February 28, 2019

To: The Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee
Re: Bill GM597

Testimony in favor of Glenn K. Muranaka for confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture

I have known Glenn Muranaka for over 20 years in my capacity as Board Chair of the Children's Discovery Center. My acquaintance with Glenn is through his previous position as General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Working with him and his staff, I was especially impressed with Glenn's philosophy and passion for promoting local products, local businesses, and protecting and preserving our natural resources.

As a person, Glenn is a kind and gentle individual. The Children's Discovery Center has enjoyed many years of working together with Meadow Gold Dairies during his tenure there. His employees were committed to him and to the company because Glenn had a quiet way of "leading by example" and establishing and communicating goals for the company that were important to him, goals that clearly supported our State of Hawaii, our local economy, and the people who live here. That is the kind of extraordinary leader that he is.

I lend my unequivocal support for his nomination to this position as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Loretta Yajima
Chair of the Board of Directors & CEO
Hawaii Children's Discovery Center
111 Ohe Street
Honolulu, HI 96813



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 1, 2019
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

GM 596

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Supports** GM 596.

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser has been a steadfast advocate for Hawaii Agriculture, as well as a supporter of the Hawaii Cattle Industry. Through various appointments in government and her elected positions in industry associations, Phyllis has shown her commitment to agriculture.

Phyllis has served for the past 4 years as Deputy of the Chairperson for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. She has experienced all forms of Hawaii agriculture and has increased her knowledge of the complexities and nuances of each commodity group. Her background in Hawaii agriculture is very strong as a third-generation egg farmer on Oahu.

Phyllis has the support of the farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. She has demonstrated her knowledge and passion for agriculture in Hawaii and is a great candidate for the position of Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

We urge you to support Mrs. Shimabukuro's nomination and we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



GM-596

Submitted on: 3/1/2019 6:43:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Sugai	Testifying for SK Natural Farms, LLC (aka 2 Lady Farmers)	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

We are Stacy Sugai and Patsy Kaneshiro, owners of SK Natural Farms, LLC (aka 2 Lady Farmers). We run a farrow to finish pig farm and are only 1 of 3 pig farms, on Oahu, who are currently selling our pork in the markets.

We are in support of Mrs. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser being confirmed as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Recently, there have been some great challenges for the pig producers. It had led to the processing of hogs to cease for 3 weeks. As Deputy Chair and Acting Department Chair, Mrs. Shimabukuro-Geiser played an integral and vital role in assisting us to resolve this situation. She was very responsive to our requests and needs. She was extremely professional in working with all parties in meetings. Most of all, she got us back up and running again.

We believe that Mrs. Shimabukuro-Geiser's experience as a local farmer is a huge asset. She knows personally the hard work, dedication, challenges, and satisfaction that comes from being a farmer in Hawaii. In addition to that, her experience as Deputy Chair has given her hands on experience and knowledge of working in the State's Department of Agriculture.

We urge you, to please confirm Mrs. Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. Hawaii's farmers need someone like her to move the agriculture industry of Hawaii forward.

Thank you for your time!

Mahalo,

Stacy and Patsy

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:18:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Comments	No

Comments:

I know that Phyllis has been the Deputy for Chair Enright for many years, but I don't know her vision for the future of agriculture or her ability to stand up for a State Agency that only receives .037 of 1% of the State Budget. Can Phyllis lead the State and renew our faith in agriculture? Can she be progressive and find ways to incentivize and build our agricultural economy and our small family farms that form the backbone of Hawaii's dwindling agricultueal production? Can she work with the Department of Education on building institutional purchasing? Can she support agricultural education P-20? Can she restore the Legislature's belief in agriculture? I can't answer any of these questions. I hope you can, and if you can't I suggest we reinstate Scott Enright.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 4:42:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m.

G.M. 596

TITLE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

POSITION: Support

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Chu Takayama, Director of Taxation, and I offer this testimony in strong support of Phyllis Shimabukuro's confirmation as Chair of the Board of Agriculture.

Over the past 4 years I have worked with Phyllis in agriculture, and especially on the serious shortage of farm workers, a serious matter on which I have worked with her personally. Her passion and commitment to farming has made a difference in generating the interest of a new generation to agriculture as a profession, as evidenced by the great increase in the numbers of students in 4-H clubs, agricultural programs and conferences on farming issues.

I have also observed her in a leadership role on a number of food safety, production, and animal husbandry projects.

Those same characteristics make her a great organizer and team player on events and projects I have been participated in with her that are unrelated to agriculture.

Please give her nomination your full favorable consideration.

Thank you.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 4:05:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support of Phyllis Shimabukuro for the Chair of the Department of Agriculture. She is highly qualified for this important post.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
RODERICK K. BECKER
AND
ROBERT YU
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 596

Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m.
Room 224

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE BOARD
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support Phyllis Shimabukuro's appointment to the position of Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture (department). We are working with Ms. Shimabukuro in our professional capacities as Director and Deputy Director of Finance, respectively.

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Ms. Shimabukuro is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Shimabukuro has served as Deputy to the Chairperson from January 2015 and prior to that, she worked at her family poultry farm for 30 years. Ms. Shimabukuro's work experience and knowledge of agriculture will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Pankaj Bhanot (in my individual capacity)

Re: GM 596

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2019

Time: 01:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Ruderman and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, my name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am the current Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). However, I am submitting this testimony as an individual in strong support of GM 596 submitted by the Governor for consideration and confirmation of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), for a term to expire at noon on December 05, 2022.

Since January 2015, Phyllis served as the principle deputy to the Board Chair of the Department of Agriculture. She assisted in the direction and coordination of day-to-day activities of the Department; relieved the Chairperson of administrative details as assigned; and assumed active direction of the Department in his absence. Attended meetings of policy boards, committees, and legislative, and community stakeholder groups as assigned by the Chairperson, assisted and maintained departmental operational efficiency, standard of performance and general employee performance.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture's (HDOA) 240 employees statewide work to support, enhance, promote, and protect Hawaii's agriculture and aquaculture industries. We work to create and maximize opportunities for exporting; and facilitate growth of existing and new agricultural commodities and by-products. In addition, the department works to prevent the introduction and establishment of plants, animals and diseases that are detrimental to the state's agriculture industry and the environment.

Ms. Shimabukuro has served our great Aloha State with distinction and exemplary excellence for over five 35 years in agriculture field. Phyllis has the professional experience, education, knowledge, skills, abilities, and the lived experience to honorably and competently serve as the Board Chair of the HDOA.

I have personally know Phyllis since January 2015 as a member of Governor Ige's Cabinet; and I found her to be knowledgeable, professional, fair, warm, kind. Phyllis' vision of perpetuating the uniqueness of Hawaii through dedicated public service to the people of Hawai'i through righteousness; and mission of assisting all farmers and ranchers to grow more wholesome food, fiber and energy through coexistence of conventional and organic practices, with innovative tools to double local food production in near future, is exemplary and what Hawaii needs today as we are attempting to diversify our agriculture and exploring ways to double our local food production.

I request the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment to unanimously confirm Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Board Chairperson of the HDOA.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 596.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:48:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
earl yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF EARL YAMAMOTO

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 1, 2019

1:15 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE BOARD
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER

FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-22

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice-Chairperson Ruderman, and Member of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of confirming
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

In her term as Deputy to the Chairperson, Phyllis has proven her ability to effectively manage the Department's day-to-day operations – from the mundane to the atypical. Prior to her appointment as Deputy to the Chairperson, I worked with Phyllis for over 20 years on preventing the encroachment of golf courses, residential development, and industrial parks in the farming areas along the Leeward Coast. She provided the Department with information and insights that only farmers in the area could provide.

Phyllis may be soft-spoken but she is second to none in defending and promoting bona fide farming operations. I am confident that under her leadership, substantial progress will be made to protect and promote the productive use of agricultural resources necessary to achieve the State's food security and self-sufficiency initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with my testimony.

TESTIMONY OF BRIAN KAU

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 1, 2019
1:15 P.M., ROOM 224

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 596

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 596 regarding the appointment of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser to the position of Chairperson, Board of Agriculture. I support this nomination.

I have had the opportunity to work with Phyllis for the past four years in her position as the Department's deputy to the Chairperson. She has consistently proven to be a champion of the agricultural community. Her positive disposition, enthusiasm, and can do attitude will serve the State well.

Written Testimony
By Isaac Maeda, DVM
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 596

MARCH 1, 2019

1:15 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee

I strongly support Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser's appointment to the position of Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser has served as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture from 2015. Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser has considerable expertise in poultry and agriculture both from a technical science-based aspect and a producer's view point. This experience and knowledge give Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser a broad perspective that is beneficial as the Chairperson for the Board of Agriculture. Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser is conscientious, thorough and a tireless advocate for Hawaii agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Governors Message 596 and Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 2:16:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto. I am personally writing in strong support of the Gubernatorial Nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Shimabukuro has been a long time poultry farmer who worked hard on the family farm business in Waianae. She not only understands the business aspects of farming but knows of the many challenges that farmers have to go through on a daily basis..

Ms. Shimabukuro has since been the deputy director for the past four years and has a good understanding of the Department of Agriculture. She is very knowledgeable of the the many agricultural issues and how complex some of these issues can be. Ms. Shimabukuro will be a great asset to the State and help the agricultural industry move forward..

I respectfully urge your support and confirmation of GM 596 Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro.

Mahalo,

Alan Takemoto

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 9:30:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Shimokawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Being a farmer for many years, I believe Phyllis will be an excellent choice to be the Chair of Department of Agriculture. She understands the plight of the farmers and would totally support Agriculture in Hawaii.

February 26, 2019.

To: Sen. M. Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
and members of the Senate Committee on Ag. and Environment

Ref.: Letter of Support for Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, Chair for the Hawaii Board of Agriculture GM 596

I, C.N. Lee, am a faculty with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. I am writing in support of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser appointment to be Chair of the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture, per GM 596.

I have known Phyllis since 1986. She was operating the Mikulua Poultry with her father the late Gary Shimabukuro. They were the largest egg farm on the island. Along with her sister, Lois, they developed the iconic local brands of Ka Lei eggs and Hawaiian Maid. These eggs are found on all islands.

Phyllis is hands on, tasks and goal oriented and extremely hardworking. She is a graduate of the CTAHR and followed that up with a graduate degree in poultry reproduction (egg production) at the University of California-Davis. Her knowledge and her continuing effort to update herself on the trade helped Mikilua poultry to remain a viable agriculture entity throughout the years. Her skills in management, foresight in the market trends and careful planning guided the farm operation through the oil crisis, economic crisis, etc. Even to this day, Mikilua poultry remained the largest egg producer in the state.

In Phyllis one can find a commitment to accomplish the tasks at hand. She has the discipline to read, the fortitude and humility to seek advice and information so she can make sound decisions and the sheer determination to work hard. Phyllis is sincere, trustworthy, honest and candid. I recall the days when she was on the board of agriculture and had to deal with the complicated issues of milk quota and pricing. Phyllis would have read all the materials before her, and she would call me to discussion issues that needed clarity. She does her homework so she can make sound decisions.

Hawaii is at a cross roads. We need to diversify our economy. While there are other forms of economic growth and opportunities, agriculture remains a vital option given our history and our isolation. With the events of climate changes, increasing population (both organic and tourism), global population growth, etc. some form of a stable food supply that addresses our needs is important; especially to tie us over times of vulnerability e.g. hurricane Lane. The challenges before the state is huge. While it would take time to address the issues of food production, it takes leadership to start and sheer grit and knowledge to keep focus on the tasks. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser has all the qualities and the integrity to do the job as Chair of the Dept. of Agriculture. She will also has the support of many in the production agriculture and agribusiness sector.

For the first time in many decades, agriculture will have the opportunity to be led by someone with production knowledge and understand the challenges of farming. I urge for your support in confirming her appointment to the position.

Mahalo Nui for the kind cooperation and support for agriculture and the community.

Sincerely,



C. N. Lee, Ph.D.
Extension Specialist
chinl@hawaii.edu

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 9:21:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn shinsato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Glenn Shinsato and I am recently retired hog farmer. I would like to express my strong support for Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Department of Agriculture chairperson. In all of my time in farming, Phyllis is one of very few people in government that has personally experienced farming and all of its joys and problems. She can understand why we farm. She can understand feed problems, marketing, the difference between family farms and large farms and she can understand secession issues.

I would like to add a caution for members of the committee, if you approve her nomination, she will need your continued support to improve the viability of Hawaiian agriculture. She will need to be heard over the many voices, loud and soft, young and old, that believe that agriculture and farmers are not "as important as...".

I believe that Phyllis is the best person for the position of Department of Agriculture Chairperson.

Thank You

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 9:22:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janel Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: [Robert Paull](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:36:28 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. I have worked with her over many years and found her to honest and dedicate to agriculture and the DOA.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Ronald Weidenbach](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:53:13 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Jessica Radovich](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:37:28 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Nelson Okumura](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:37:39 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [jason.knoche](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:53:59 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Mark Stoutemyer](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:42:36 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Harry Yamamoto](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:56:10 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Joanna Nobriga](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:43:13 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [James Tavares](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:02:06 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [John Giblin](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:47:44 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Jari Sugano](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:18:07 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Dusty Alderks](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:48:47 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Monica Ivey](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:50:05 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Alvin Tsuruda](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:18:14 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Alan Tada](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:19:29 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Marisa Akiona](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:24:20 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Kylie Matsuda-Lum](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:24:32 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Vernon inouye](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:29:47 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [melvin kunitake](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:34:48 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Bruce Silverglade](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:37:04 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Clyde Fukuyama](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:37:29 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Louis Yang](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:36:06 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

TESTIMONY OF DAMIEN ELEFANTE
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 1:15 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GOV. MSG NO. 596

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE BOARD
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2022

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Committee. I am testifying as an individual and I am in support of Phyllis Shimabukuro's confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

During her time at the Department of Agriculture she has developed an understanding of the department. She has been a reliable and hardworking person. Her overall background and experiences in the agriculture industry, working in both public and private sector is an asset and resource for the State.

I urge you to support the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: [Stephanie Mock](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:58:25 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Donald R Gerbig](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:00:47 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Christine Brammer](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:01:01 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Charles King](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:09:55 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Rodney & Karol Haraguchi](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:11:34 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Hiromichi Nago](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:20:46 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Randy Cabral](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:30:19 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Nicole Correa](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:48:59 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 1:06:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 1:18:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas L. Vincent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a retired Animal Science Professor in CTAHR and at UH Manoa. I offer my strongest support to Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser at Chair of the Board of Agriculture. She has all the necessary experience, comes from a farming background, and knows the ins and outs of Hawaii agriculture. I have known Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser for many years and she has always been the strongest advocate for Hawaii agriculture. She will make a great leader for the Board of Agriculture. I offer my strongest support. Please approve her nomination.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 2:19:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Delanie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have worked with Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser in a professional capacity for the last four years. I have always found her to be fair, knowledgeable, and able to get things done in a timely manner. She possesses a great deal of integrity and has always acted in the best interest of the department of agriculture. I strongly support Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser's nomination.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 2:41:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
norman oshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser will be an excellent Chair of HDOA. I have known Phyllis for over 25 years through the Hawaii Farm Bureau and through Mikilua Farm Center. She has always helped HFB members as well as just farmers with needed informations about farming and help stay up to date on farming legislations. She will be a great asset to the farming community as well as to the whole Hawaii state concerning agriculture.

Norman Oshiro

Mikilua Farm Center

From: [Douglas Luka](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:20:11 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Randy Yokoyama](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:39:17 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Rodrigo Balala](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:41:19 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Verna Equires](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:53:36 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [David G Rietow](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 12:17:35 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Dawn Bicoy](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 12:59:16 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Roy Oyama](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 1:46:40 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Bronson Kahue-Burrows](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 1:47:21 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Michelle Watkins](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 2:10:13 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Helena Miguel](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 2:48:22 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Valerie Kaneshiro](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:07:04 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 4:46:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Kurisu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of Phyllis Shimabukuro for the position of Hawaii Chairman for the Department of Agriculture. I know Phyllis when she worked on the farm at Ka Lei Eggs. She is very knowledgeable and very approachable. As Deputy, I contacted her several times and was surprise with her immediate response. She even respond with emails in the evening. I support her to be our next Chairman for the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you,

Derek Kurisu

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 5:00:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Ms. Shimabukuro Geiser has a familiar relationship with the Mikilua egg farm that imprisons 150,000 hens in battery cages. We believe that her nexus with this inhumane practice will color her ability to respond to not only the farming community, but also to local taxpaying consumers who condemn the cruel practice of CAFOs and battery cages. We strongly oppose her nomination to lead the Dept. of Agriculture.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 6:28:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryuko Miura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 10:18:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micah Munekata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 6:05:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Conflict of interest! Shimabukuro is related to the family who owns a chicken farm with 150,000 chickens living in less than clean surroundings. I oppose this nomination!

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 12:02:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I offer my strong support for Phyllis Shimabukuro to chair the State Board of Agriculture.

I have worked in agriculture in Hawaii for nearly 30 years. During that time I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Shimabukuro on various issues of concern to farmers. She is an experienced agriculturalist, a conscientious and dedicated public servant, and an extremely fair-minded person. I believe that Ms. Shimabukuro will be a strong advocate to further the Governor's goal of increasing the state's agricultural production and making Hawaii more food self-sufficient.

Please confirm Ms. Shimabukuro's appointment. Thank you.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 12:05:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Phyllis is knowledgeable about agriculture and the Department of Agriculture. She is open to and supportive of new and innovative ways to move Hawaii's agriculture forward. I am confident she will serve as an effective director, and she has my full support.

From: [Donald Lau](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 5:19:01 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Adam Killermann](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 5:31:40 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Justin Teixeira](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 6:42:23 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Heidi Watanabe](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 7:10:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Joni Kamiya](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 7:53:37 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [donald sommer](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 7:57:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Kenneth Kadohiro](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 5:21:10 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Mark Phillipson](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 9:25:05 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

Statement of
Mary Alice Evans

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 596
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Board Chairperson of the
Department of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,
PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, for a term to expire 12-31-2022.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully urge your **strong support** for the confirmation of **Phyllis Shimabukuro** to serve as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

I have had the pleasure of working with Phyllis while she was the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture. Phyllis is a knowledgeable, thoughtful leader who deeply cares about farmers and Hawaii agriculture. She knows the multiple challenges that Hawaii farmers face and the sources of funding that can help. She knows the department's dedicated and experienced employees and has earned their trust.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of the nomination of Phyllis Shimabukuro for Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: [Carolynn Lum](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 1:03:46 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Sharon Iwasaki](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 5:18:13 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

JAYSON M. WATTS
Honolulu, Hawaii

March 1, 2019

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, my name is Jayson Watts, and I write to you today in my personal capacity **in support** of Governor's Message 596, the consideration and confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro as Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

During the previous five years, I served as Senior Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor overseeing major policy initiatives like the creation and implementation of the 'Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program that now thrives within the Hawaii State Department of Education's (HIDOE) School Food Services Branch (SFSB). I remain on SFSB's 'Aina Pono Executive Committee that continues to lead program planning and implementation, factoring in the lessons learned from the pilot schools.

As the single largest purchaser of food in Hawaii, the SFSB prepares over 100,000 lunches and 25,000 breakfasts daily and employs over 1,200 cafeteria workers in 197 cafeterias feeding 256 schools, as well as charter schools, private schools, senior care centers and Headstart programs spanning five islands. I say this to remind people of the massive size of the task that lies ahead now that the 'Aina Pono pilot projects have concluded, and SFSB has started statewide implementation – that 'Aina Pono realizes a significant shift in the way the state procures and prepares food.

The overarching goals of 'Aina Pono are to improve child nutrition and support local agriculture by systematically increasing HIDOE's purchasing of local and fresh food for school breakfast, lunch, and snack programs to 40% local and 60% fresh. Ambitious, but not impossible goals. They simply require a partner in the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

A partner that can (a) onboard new farmers and local food vendors to supply food for the DOE's child nutrition programs, (b) provide agricultural market research to SFSB, (c) conduct strategic outreach to the agricultural sector to grow our purchasing over time, (d) provide real-time market information regarding changes to local supply chains, (e) farmer and vendor education to help farmers comply with SFSB's food safety requirements, (f) assist schools with school garden certifications and obtaining grants for school gardens, and (g) promote farm to school month and state-sponsored farm to school campaigns.

Through 'Aina Pono's pilot projects in Kohala and Mililani, the feasibility of all of this was tested, and I humbly offer that Phyllis Shimabukuro possesses the experience and temperament to work with the vast group of stakeholders that's needed to get Hawaii to where it needs to be to expand local food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF JO ANN UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 1:15 PM
Conference Room 224

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 596
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE BOARD
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, FOR A TERM TO EXPRE 12-31-2022**

TO THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing to express my strong support of GM 596 for Phyllis Shimabukuro's nomination to serve as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture. My name is Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi and I am submitting this supporting testimony in my personal capacity.

I have had the opportunity to work with Phyllis Shimabukuro for the past four years in her capacity as Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and in my capacity as Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. She is intelligent, hard-working, ethical and dedicated, and has a vast breadth of knowledge about the agriculture industry and the department that she leads.

I urge you to support the confirmation of Phyllis Shimabukuro as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-596

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 11:07:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colin Hayashida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environment

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

Friday, March 1, 2019
1:15 p.m.

Testimony on **Governor's Message No. 596**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the **Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser**, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, the Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser to serve as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Over the last four years, I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser, who prior to being appointed as the Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, served as its deputy director. As both a director and deputy director, I observed Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser to be responsive and helpful on matters that crossed our jurisdictions, and one who was willing to offer solutions to challenges that we presented to her. Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser is a thoughtful, hard-working, and collaborative public servant who has demonstrated she possesses the skills, temperament, and aptitude needed to lead the Department of Agriculture.

I firmly believe Ms. Shimabukuro-Geiser will continue to be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination as Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM No. 596. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.

From: [Jamie Barton](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 8:05:56 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [LUANA BECK](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 8:25:55 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Rhonda Anduha](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 11:41:27 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Rhonda Anduha](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 11:41:27 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Mary Liles](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Friday, March 1, 2019 9:57:53 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Kenneth Kaneshiro](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Friday, March 1, 2019 10:08:08 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

From: [Michael Kamiya](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I Support GM 596
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 4:35:01 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I strongly support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro- Geiser's tremendous agriculture background, education, and experience will provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Her extensive background and her years of experience would be invaluable to HDOA as they continue to fulfill their mission of expanding the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food and renewable energy production.

I urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser as the Board Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo!

Written Statement by Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser

GM596

**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation
As Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture**

For the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

February 25, 2019

Aloha Chairperson Gabbard:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written statement that addresses the questions below for consideration and confirmation as Board Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture.

(1) Why do you wish to be Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture?

My family has a deep history of farming in Hawai'i for approximately 100 years beginning with sugar, pineapple, tomatoes and poultry on three different islands (Hawai'i, Maui and Oahu). I have devoted much of my life to Agriculture with working on the farm as a minor and over 30 years as an adult. My entire college education has been in Agriculture. I would like to use my production and administrative experience both in the private sector and state government to help the State of Hawai'i and its farmers, ranchers and nursery growers expand economic opportunities while protecting resources for agricultural production and the environment through public service.

I would like the opportunity to continue the work that the department has done within the first term of Governor Ige's Administration which aims to double Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency in fresh local foods by 2020 and provide continued support to the ongoing operations of the department and its personnel.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture?

Under the direction of the Chairperson, the department promotes conservation, development, and utilization of agricultural resources in the State; assists the farmers, ranchers, and nursery growers of the State and any others engaged in agriculture by dissemination of information, and any other means of improving the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and increasing productivity of the lands, administering programs of the State such as animal industry, entomology, farm credit, development and promotion of agricultural products and markets, agricultural biosecurity, and the establishment and enforcement of the rules on the grading and labeling of agricultural products.

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

I believe my experience as Deputy to the Chairperson from 2015-2018, my experience serving on the Board of Agriculture as a member-at-large from 1989-1997, my experience serving on the USDA Farm Service Agency as Hawai'i State Committee member from 2001-2009, my agricultural education (BS and MS) and real-life thirty-year experience in production agriculture in Hawaii make me qualified for the position. I have experience with departmental contract administration and human resources administration. I have served on other State department committees such as Climate Adaptation (DLNR), Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board (DLIR) and the Medical Marijuana Dispensary License selection panel for Department of Health.

- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

Restore the Market Analysis News Branch with economists and statisticians that were reduced in the 2009 RIF to collect, analyze, research and publish agricultural data, and update the departments strategic plan.

Work with Senate leadership and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment to confirm the legislative intent and direction of Farm to State. Initial discussion occurred within the department and the position description of the Farm to State coordinator is drafted for a new special project.

Move forward on the Hawai'i State Hemp Plan for submission to and approval by USDA to develop a commercial hemp industry.

Assist farmers to be aware of, and to prepare to meet food safety standards, and to apply other agricultural practices as required by the federal government and private entities.

Continue to identify where Hawai'i's farmers may have advantages and opportunities to compete with imported products.

Continue to seek the development and distribution of information for farmers to make production decisions.

Continue to support farmers and the establishment of production agriculture on all agricultural lands towards doubling Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency in fresh foods by the year 2020.

Continue filling vacancies in the department and reducing the number of vacancies to under 20 percent since the 40 percent reduction in workforce of 2009.

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out.

Strong work ethic, commitment to Agriculture and a collaborative spirit.

How would these qualities benefit the Board of Agriculture? Working in collaboration with members of the Board of Agriculture who have multiple skillsets and expertise in a deliberative and coordinated effort

to provide support and opportunities to farmers, ranchers and nursery growers and all others engaged in agriculture. I am committed to the best of my ability to fulfill the mission of the department.

- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Agriculture?

In 2017, I was assigned by the Chairperson to oversee the development of the RFP and procurement of the new Plant Quarantine database. More than two years of discussion (2014 -2017) of a system for Plant Quarantine E-manifest and permitting occurred without a replacement system to the existing INVICTA database. A new system was needed as an important component of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. I worked with the Plant Industry Administrator, Plant Quarantine and IT staff to develop the RFP to create online permitting and e-manifest system. The RFP was posted October 2017, awarded and contracted for \$835,476.11 in March 2018 within less than a year. PQSYSTEM17, the automated, risk-based electronic release system is comprehensive and incorporates all of Plant Quarantine data collection functions. Manifest system allows importers to e-submit information to Plant Quarantine Branch for review prior to arrival in state. The system increases efficient use of program resources and conducts up-to-date risk analysis of regulated commodities. PQSYSTEM17 is anticipated to be completed at the end of FY19 and will assist the Board of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to protect Hawaii's agriculture, environment, economy and public health from invasive species.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Agriculture?

None. I have consulted with the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission.

How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest? I have no ownership, nor do I have management affiliation with private industry and organizations. I have always consulted with the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission when any issue or appearance of possible conflict of interest arises.

Respectfully,



Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser